STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

A/B 5,342/16

TO : [redacted] Chief, A
Security Research Staff, I&SO

FROM : [redacted] Chief,
Technical Branch, SRS, I&SO

DATE: 25 November 1952

SUBJECT: Proposed Research - Artichoke

1. Reference is made to our numerous conversations regarding special proposed plant research in connection with new substances for use in the Artichoke program. As you know, [redacted] of OSI has recently returned from [redacted] etc.) in connection with research in relation to the plant Piule and other similar plants of interest to us. [redacted] trip very clearly now establishes that we are heading in the right direction and that the substances in which we have an interest apparently show strong toxic and narcotic qualities.

2. On this date, Tuesday, 25 November 1952, the writer spent one and one-half hours with [redacted] carefully going over the research to date and then held a fifteen-minute conference, arranged at the request of [redacted] with his supervisor [redacted] who is Chief of the Medical Division of OSI. As you know [redacted] has to have the authority of [redacted] before he can travel or engage in any research although [redacted] is Chief of the Pharmacological and Bio-Chemistry Branch of OSI. As a result of this conference, it now appears that an immediate trip [redacted] and areas south of [redacted] is essential for [redacted]

3. I am setting out below, under individual headings, the broad ramifications of this trip and request that you and I have an immediate conference in this matter with [redacted] and, if necessary, [redacted] I am requesting that the highest possible priority be attached to this trip for reasons which will be clearly explained below:

A. Individuals Necessary to See in Mexico.

[redacted] had discovered that [redacted] a world authority on Mexican plants and narcotic and toxic drugs, is still alive and is residing and working in [redacted] has an easy entree to [redacted] by his cover which I will set out below and should be able to obtain first-rate assistance from this scientist. [redacted] has collaborated with [redacted] in basic work on Piule and, hence [redacted] will probably [redacted] first point of contact.

[redacted]

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In addition, [redacted] has arranged necessary contacts with numerous other individuals in the scientific fields in [redacted] and nearby to assist in this research.

B. Areas to be Visited in [redacted]

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[redacted] will fly immediately to [redacted] He will do certain basic research and liaison activity in and around [redacted] and from there will procede south to the [redacted] where we have clear records that the local [redacted] Indian tribes are reported to have used and are now using Piule and other related narcotic plants. In this area [redacted] will do plant research, make field tests, and will procure actual specimens for future work in the United States in connection with the drugs.

C. Time of Trip

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It is essential that [redacted] leave as soon as possible for it has been determined that the collection of plants and seeds, etc. is at its maximum at the present time and will be for the next thirty to sixty days. [redacted] estimates the trip will consume thirty to sixty days, including necessary plant research. The writer has ascertained that [redacted] is prepared to leave immediately in this connection and is furthermore prepared to undertake the rugged search and plant work required.

D. Assistance Necessary for [redacted]

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[redacted] has informed the writer that no assistance will be necessary for this trip except as he may require locally in [redacted] He is familiar with this area, speaks passable [redacted] and has contacts arranged [redacted] will, of course, require some funds to purchase assistance and possibly to pay transportation costs of any [redacted] scientists that [redacted] feels may be of value in the field.

[redacted]

[redacted]

E. Authorization to Pass Quarantine for Bringing Plants Into the United States

A F B/3 [redacted] has informed the writer that he and his associates in OSI will take care of all quarantine regulations and conditions necessary for the bringing in of material obtained [redacted] states that this will be done by his contacts in the [redacted] He informed the writer there will be no problem in this connection.

F. Cover to be Used

A B/3 [redacted] will use the cover of the [redacted] of which he is a member. He will also be supported by necessary documentation from the [redacted] and from the [redacted] He, of course, is a well-known scientist and by reputation alone is able to obtain a freedom of movement that other persons might not be able to do. [redacted] will carry the necessary chemical and biological testing equipment with him and barring certain purchases which he will have to make in the field, will carry nothing that would give away the exact nature of his mission. A [redacted] will state that he is engaging in medical research having to do with the examination of narcotic drugs for anesthesia and related purposes. This is regarded by the writer as being a completely broad enough field to duly protect our interests.

G. Specific Objects of this Research

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This trip will be/discover, test, and obtain specimens of the plant group known as Piule and many of its related plants. Research has now shown that these plants have strong narcotic-toxic properties which are of vast interest to Artichoke. At the present time, very little is known of these plants and confusion exists as to which are the ones of greatest interest to us. A [redacted] will make field tests on the spot in connection with all of these plants to assure us no worthless material is collected. [redacted] will use a special test that he has worked out and used for over fifteen years and which he knows to be reliable.

[redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted] has already collected thirty specimens locally [redacted] etc.) of related plants having toxic and narcotic properties and is presently engaged in testing these plants for properties of interest to Artichoke. Very little is known of this type of plant and extensive research is, therefore, required.

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While i[redacted] will also attempt to obtain certain poisonous mushrooms, particularly the PANEOLUS CAMPANULATUS and closely related species which are found in the area ~~to~~ be visited. In this connection, it is known that these have a narcotic effect and are used by Indian tribes in ceremonies and for other pertinent reasons. It should be noted in connection with the use of mushrooms that the Russians have used narcotic mushrooms to produce intoxication and mental derangement for some time and, hence, the Artichoke interest in this field.

H. Funds Necessary for this Trip

It is proposed that the Artichoke project pay the total cost for this trip. However, if this is not feasible, it is felt that the trip expenses could be split with OSI although the writer feels that the total payment by Artichoke would be advantageous in this connection. These funds will include all transportation

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expenses including air travel between [redacted] and return, train fare, automobile, hiring of guides, etc.

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[redacted] should also have funds with him for the purchase of field supplies, food, etc.; for the purchase of technical assistance in collecting material; for purchase of actual specimens in bulk and any other necessary incidental expenditures as would be determined by [redacted]. The writer feels that the trip must not be handicapped because of lack of funds and will recommend that [redacted] be given a substantial advance prior to departure. (The writer estimates that the trip expenses, including purchase of materials, specimens, etc. should not exceed $2000.00. The cost of a round-trip ticket to [redacted] including Government tax.)

I. Authority for Trip

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Permission for [redacted] to make the trip to [redacted] will have to come from [redacted], Chief

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of the Medical Division of OSI. As mentioned above,

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[redacted]

in an informal conversation with [redacted] the writer ascertained that [redacted] is apparently willing to give his permission for [redacted]'s immediate departure.

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4. The writer requests that this matter be taken up immediately since time in this case is definitely of the essence. It is believed that as soon as the Artichoke problems involved are ironed out, we should arrange a conference with [redacted] and firm up final details.

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[redacted]

[redacted]

A/B, 5, 347/1

A The following is taken from a memorandum to [redacted] from [redacted]., dated 14 January 1953 - Subject - Interrogation Techniques:

C 3. If the services of [redacted] a trained hypnotist can be obtained and another man well grounded in conventional psychological interrogation and polygraph techniques,
C and the services of [redacted] a well-balanced interrogation research center could be established in an especially selected location.

A [redacted] 3-3-53